

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6392

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TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN
SUBJECT: KOREA AT 32ND UNGA: CORE GROUP

REF: A. SEOUL 10249; B. USUN 6350; C. USUN 4138

1. SUMMARY: BECAUSE MANY OF THOSE IN NEW YORK WHO TAKE PART IN CORE GROUP GO ON LEAVE AFTER UNGA AND BECAUSE OF ITS AWARENESS THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICIES ON KOREAN QUESTION WOULD BE OF KEY IMPORTANCE IN DETERMINING DIRECTION OF CORE GROUP'S WORK, ROK OBSERVER OFFICE SUGGESTED TO US RECENTLY THAT END OF JANUARY 1977 WOULD BE EARLIEST SUITABLE TIME FOR CORE GROUP MEETING. WE CONSIDER THAT CORE GROUP COULD BE ACTIVATED ON SHORT NOTICE AND THAT ATMOSPHERE FOLLOWING 31ST UNGA IS A GOOD ONE IN WHICH TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE BETWEEN PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED ON KOREA AS WELL AS TO DISCOURAGE STERILE UNGA CONFRONTATION. WE NOTE THAT MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NACC) IN MARCH MAY PROVIDE INDICATIONS OF WHAT COURSE IS TO BE SET IN 1977 BY PRO-DPRK NON-ALIGNED. END SUMMARY.

2. WHEN ROK OBSERVER OFFICE INFORMALLY SUGGESTED TO US RECENTLY, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SEOUL'S CURRENT INTEREST IN CONFIDENTIAL

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RECONVENING CORE GROUP, THAT CORE GROUP MIGHT MEET AGAIN AT END OF JANUARY, WE AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE EARLIEST SUITABLE TIME. THIS WOULD SEEM TRUE BECAUSE MANY OF THOSE IN NEW YORK WHO TAKE PART IN CORE GROUP WORK GO ON LEAVE AFTER UNGA. ADDITIONALLY, THE ROK OBSERVER OFFICE SEEMED WELL AWARE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES ON THE

KOREAN QUESTION WOULD BE OF KEY IMPORTANCE IN DETERMINING DIRECTION OF CORE GROUP'S WORK.

3. USUN WAS IN TOUCH RECENTLY WITH CORE GROUP MEMBERS REGARDING OUR SUBMISSION OF UN COMMAND REPORT (REF B). CONVERSATIONS WITH CORE GROUP COLLEAGUES SHOWED CORE GROUP SPIRIT VERY MUCH ALIVE. ADDITIONALLY, USUN MISOFF HELD REPRESENTATIONAL PARTY DECEMBER 15 CENTERED ON CORE GROUP WHICH WAS WELL ATTENDED. AMONGST CORE GROUP REPRESENTATIVES HERE THERE IS STRONG FEELING OF SATISFACTION THAT CORE GROUP EFFORTS HELPED HEAD OFF STERILE DEBATE ON KOREAN ITEMS AT 31ST UNGA. THERE IS NO TENDENCY, HOWEVER, AMONG GROUP TO LOOK AT FUTURE THROUGH ROSE-COLORED GLASSES, AND THERE SEEMS FULL RECOGNITION THAT HARD WORK ON KOREAN QUESTION AT UN MAY BE REQUIRED IN FUTURE.

4. IN OUR JUDGMENT, AMBASSADORIAL - OR WORKING-LEVEL CORE GROUP MEETING COULD BE CONVENED ON SHORT NOTICE IN NEW YORK. GIVEN ROK'S SUCCESSFUL CHAIRMANSHIP OF CORE GROUP DURING 1976 AND THE ROK'S FUNDAMENTAL INTEREST IN WORK OF GROUP, WE CONSIDER THAT ROK COULD VERY APPROPRIATELY CONVENE FUTURE CORE GROUP MEETING.

5. AS TO ARA SUPPORT ON KOREAN QUESTION IN 1976, IT MAY BE NOTED THAT 10 OF 20 COSPONSORS OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION WERE ARA COUNTRIES (COSTA RICA, GRENADA, PARAGUAY, BOLIVIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND URUGUAY). FURTHERMORE, NINE ADDITIONAL POSITIVE VOTES ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION WERE ANTICIPATED FROM ARA STATES. WE BELIEVE THAT COSTA RICA, WITH ITS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THE KOREAN QUESTION AND ITS POSITION AS A HIGHLY RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL GROUP AT THE UN, SHOULD BE RETAINED AS A MEMBER OF THE CORE GROUP. HOWEVER, GIVEN KEY SIGNIFICANCE OF ARA STATES TO STRENGTH OF FRIENDLY SUPPORT, ADDITION TO CORE GROUP OF RIVER PLATE COUNTRY SUCH AS URUGUAY MIGHT BE CONSIDERED.

6. FROM MID-AUGUST 1976 WHEN PRO-DPRK UNGA RESOLUTION WAS SUBMITTED, NORTH KOREANS SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO POSITION. YUGOSLAVIA'S DEPUTY PERMREP MUJEZINOVIC RECENTLY CONFIRMED TO AMB BENNETT THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD BEEN UNABLE TO COSPONSOR PRO-DPRK RESOLUTION BECAUSE NORTH KOREANS HAD BEEN ADAMANT IN REFUSING TO CONSIDER MODERATING AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY YUGOSLAVIA. ADDITIONALLY, PANMUNJOM MURDERS PRODUCED SHOCK EVEN AMONG COMMUNISTS HERE. SUBSEQUENT DISCLOSURES OF NORTH KOREAN SMUGGLING IN SCANDINAVIA MUST HAVE FURTHER DAMPENED NORTH KOREAN ARDOR FOR CORRIDOR ACTIVITY DURING 31ST UNGA. IN SHARP

CONTRAST WITH 30TH UNGA, CORRIDORS WERE ALMOST DEVOID OF NORTH KOREANS THIS FALL. WE HAVE HEARD NO LAMENTATIONS FROM ANY QUARTER OVER THIS, NOR OVER THE FACT THAT KOREAN QUESTION WAS NOT DEBATED. ROK REPRESENTATIVES, MUCH EMBARRASSED BY FLOOD OF ADVERSE PUBLICITY DIRECTED TOWARD ROK SINCE MID-FALL, HAVE SEEMED ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL OVER THE LATTER.

7. NACC MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING IN NEW DELHI IN MARCH 1977 MAY PROVIDE SOME INDICATION AS TO DIRECTION IN WHICH PRO-DPRK NON-ALIGNED INTEND TO PROCEED THIS YEAR (E.G., POSSIBLE SUBMISSION OF LESS HARSH PRO-DPRK UNGA RESOLUTION). ADDITIONALLY, ALTHOUGH RUMORS THIS FALL THAT COMMUNIST STATES MIGHT ENCOURAGE NORTH KOREA TO JOIN UN HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED (REF C), POSSIBILITY REMAINS THAT SOME DEVELOPMENT IN THIS DIRECTION MAY EMERGE FROM NON-ALIGNED, COMMUNISTS, AND/OR OTHERS.

8. GIVEN CLIMATE OF SATISFACTION AT UNGA THAT KOREAN
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QUESTION NOT DEBATED, FORTHCOMING MONTHS MAY PROVIDE FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR CORE GROUP TO CONTINUE TO WORK TO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED AND TO DISCOURAGE STERILE UNGA CONFRONTATION. ADDITIONALLY, CORE GROUP COULD AGAIN COORDINATE SOUNDINGS TO LEARN NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER VIEWS ON KOREA. THE WORK OF THE GROUP, HOWEVER, WILL BE GUIDED TO AN IMPORTANT DEGREE BY POLICY DETERMINATIONS STILL TO BE STUDIED BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.
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